

Message Text

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SUBJ: IRISH PRIME MINISTER COSGRAVE'S OFFICIAL VISIT TO THE US -
THEMES FOR TOASTS AND REMARKS

1. FOLLOWING ARE SOME SUGGESTED THEMES FOR TOASTS AND REMARKS IN
CONNECTION WITH THE COSGRAVE VISIT.

2. WHILE NOT WANTING TO CAUSE OFFENSE TO ITALIAN-AMERICANS AND
SCANDANAVIAN AMERICANS, NOTE THERE IS A POSSIBILITY THAT ST.
BRENDAN THE NAVIGATOR OF IRELAND MAY HAVE CROSSED THE ATLANTIC
TO THE NEW WORLD IN THE SIXTH CENTURY. ALSO NOTE THAT ON ST.
BRENDAN'S DAY IN MAY 1976 AN ATTEMPT WILL BE MADE TO SAIL THE
ROUTE FROM IRELAND CHARTED BY ST. BRENDAN USING A SPECIALLY BUILT
BOAT THAT DUPLICATES BOAT-BUILDING TECHNIQUES AVAILABLE IN ST.
BRENDAN'S TIME. IT WILL BE A DELIGHTFUL AND MOST INTERESTING
BICENTENNIAL EVENT TO WELCOME THIS CRAFT WHEN IT ARRIVES ON THIS
SIDE OF THE ATLANTIC DURING THE SUMMER.

3. ONE OF THE MANY EARLY IRISH-AMERICANS CONTRIBUTING TO OUR
WAR FOR INDEPENDENCE WAS A MAN KNOWN AS THE "FATHER OF THE U.S.
NAVY," ADMIRAL JOHN BARRY. THERE ARE MONUMENTS TO HIM IN EEXFORD
AND PHILADELPHIA. A GREAT MANY OTHER IRISHMEN RALLIED TO THE
CAUSE OF INDEPENDENCE. JOSEPH GALLOWAY, A DELEGATE TO THE FIRST
CONTINENTAL CONGRESS IN 1779 STATED "AT LEAST HALF OF GENERAL
WASHINGTON'S OFFICERS AND TROOPS WERE OF IRISH ORIGIN."

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4. WHEN THE SECOND CONGRESS PASSED THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

ELEVEN OF ITS SIGNERS WERE AMERICAN-IRISH.

5. THE WHITE HOUSE ITSELF HAS AN IRISH ARCHITECT, JAMES HOBAN, A NATIVE OF KILKENNY WHO HAD SETTLED IN CHARLESTON AFTER THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR AND ACQUIRED A REPUTATION AS AN ARCHITECT. HE PRODUCED A DESIGN FOR A NEW "PRESIDENT'S PALACE" IN THE NEW FEDERAL CITY IN 1792.

6. THE AMERICAN-IRISH CONNECTION IS FAR MORE THAN A MILITARY ONE. THE AMERICAN-IRISH ROLE IN GOVERNMENT IS A FASCINATING SUBJECT FOR STUDY. BEGINNING WITH THOMAS DONGAN, GOVERNOR OF NEW YORK FROM 1683-1688 DOWN TO PRESIDENT KENNEDY, THE CATALOG OF IRISH-AMERICANS ENGAGED IN POLITICS AND GOVERNMENT IS ALMOST ENDLESS.

7. IN LITERATURE F. SCOTT FITZGERALD, JOHN O'HARA AND EUGENE O'NEILL ARE ONLY A FEW WHO HAVE CONTRIBUTED SO MUCH TO OUR LITERARY TRADITION. THE AMERICAN-IRISH CONTRIBUTION TO THE THEATRE RADIO AND TELEVISION, MEDICINE, EDUCATION, BUSINESS, SPORT AND TO OUR MUSICAL HERITAGE IS EQUALLY GREAT.

9. IT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE TO REFER TO THE CONTINUING CONTACTS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES AND OF OVER 100 AMERICAN CORPORATIONS DOING BUSINESS IN IRELAND WITH INVESTMENT OF NEARLY HALF A BILLION DOLLARS. STUDENT EXCHANGES ARE AN IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTION TO UNDERSTANDING EACH OTHER'S CULTURE AND HERITAGE. COURSES IN THE IRISH LANGUAGE AND IRISH HISTORY ARE GIVEN IN MANY AMERICAN UNIVERSITIES. AMERICAN STUDIES COURSES ARE ON THE INCREASE IN IRISH INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING. THE FIRST CHAIR OF AMERICAN HISTORY HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED AT UNIVERSITY COLLEGE DUBLIN THROUGH THE DONATIONS FROM PRIVATE AMERICAN SOURCES AND A PROFESSOR OF AMERICAN STUDIES WILL BE APPOINTED TO FILL THE CHAIR DURING THIS BICENTENNIAL YEAR.

10. REFERENCE COULD WELL BE MADE TO THE COOPERATION IN US-EC CONSULTATIONS DURING THE IRISH PRESIDENCY OF THE COMMON MARKET. IN MANY RESPECTS THIS REPRESENTED A TURNING POINT IN CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN THE WORLD'S TWO LARGEST TRADING BLOCS. CURLEY

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